

FOREWORD

The current volume of the African Law Study Library (ALSL) comprises of articles written by participants who attended the "Colloquium on Cooperation between Judicial Stakeholders from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi ". The colloquium took place on 4 and 5 November 2021 in Goma, DRC and was organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Rule of Law Program for Francophone Sub Saharan Africa based in Dakar, Senegal.

The Burundian, Rwandan and Congolese legal practitioners discussed issues related to security, prevention and prosecution of international crimes and human rights violations in transnational and cross-border settings in the Great Lakes region.

Franck Shukuru discusses the legal framework for judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in his work on "Multilateral, regional, sub-regional and bilateral instruments: Integration into the domestic legal framework, implementation and obstacles to their effectiveness". He notes that the legal and political-diplomatic arrangements between these three states needs to be improved

Tshisumpa Muelu Raphael and Ahadi Byumanine Elie outline in their work "National normative and procedural frameworks in the fight against impunity for international crimes and human rights violations in the Great Lakes region: Is harmonisation necessary?", the need for harmonisation to improve judicial cooperation within the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Region Countries.

Adolphe Kilomba Sumaili discusses "The Right to the Truth in the Great Lakes Region: Legal Basis, Supply and Demand" and suggests the need for capacity building among civil societies in the three countries on the right to the truth as a fundamental pillar of any transitional justice process.

Ahadi Byumanine Élie reflects on "Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters in the Great Lakes Region: Challenges and Prospects". He proposes harmonisation of national legal regulations to strengthen judicial cooperation in criminal matters and establishment of a court to interpret and apply the conventions adopted by the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries.

Pacifique Muhindo Magadju explains the forms and procedures of cooperation between the states of the Great Lakes region and highlights the challenges regarding the implementation for cooperation in "Judicial cooperation and the fight against impunity for international crimes and human rights violations in the Great Lakes region".

Lazare Ngenzebuhoro discusses "National, regional and international legal instruments applicable in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda with regard to the fight against the exploitation of natural resources": A clear, adapted and harmonised framework? He analyses the domestic and international legal instruments applicable in

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the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Hartmut Hamann

Ingo Badoreck